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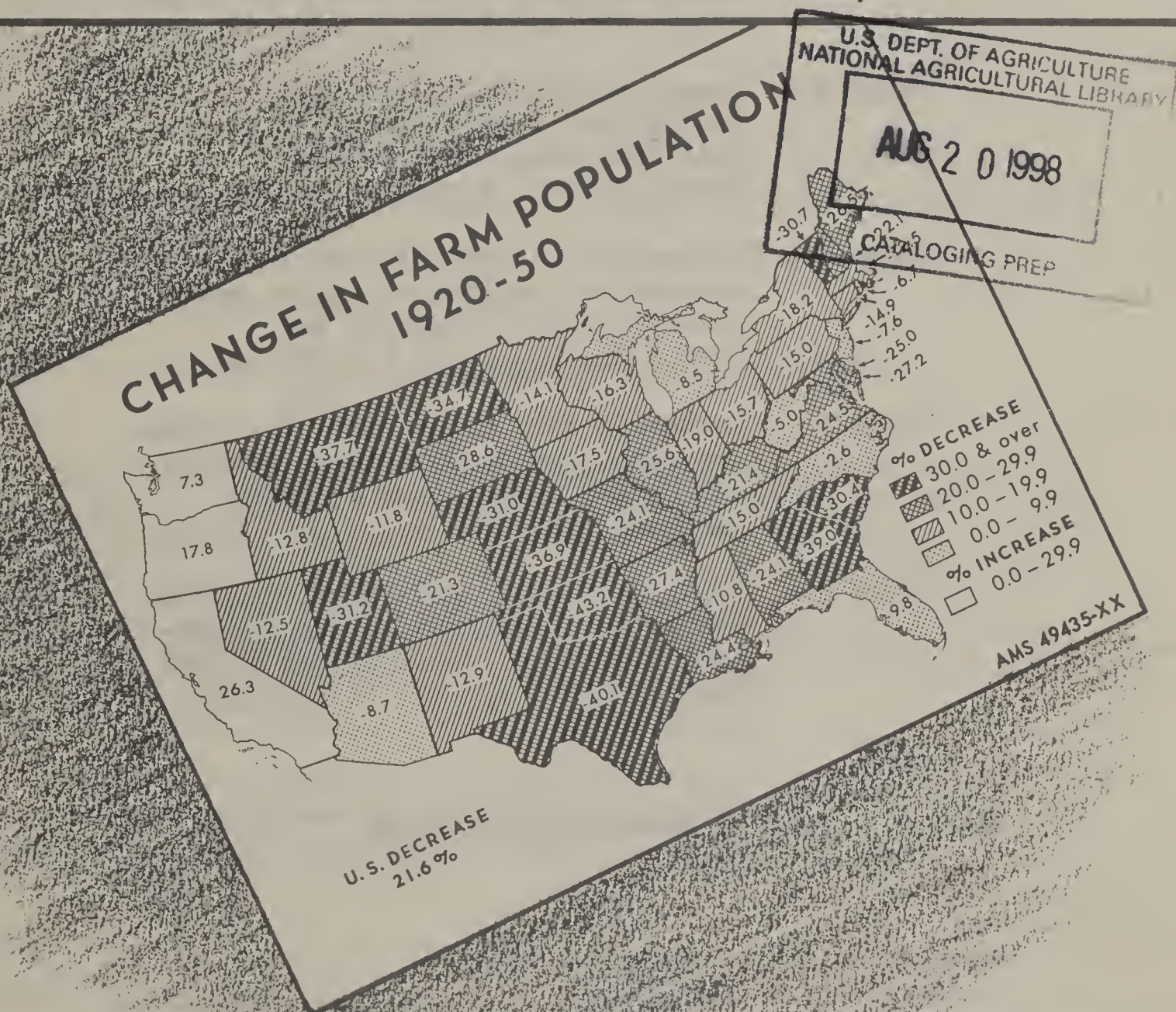


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# *U.S. Population*

ANNUAL ESTIMATES BY STATES,  
MAJOR GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS,  
AND REGIONS, 1920-50.....

*and* FOR THE UNITED STATES, 1910-50



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE



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## FARM POPULATION

Annual Estimates by States, Major Geographic Divisions,  
and Regions, 1920-50 and the United States, 1910-50

Prepared in the Agricultural Marketing Service

The latest estimates of the farm population of the United States, for 1910-50, and of its principal subdivisions for 1920-50, are presented in this report. <sup>1/</sup> Certain of the estimates are revisions of previously published estimates; others are for areas and dates for which estimates of farm population have not previously been published; and a few have been published.

Revised farm population estimates are presented for:

- (1) States, 1920-45.
- (2) Major geographic divisions and regions,  
1920-49.

Areas and dates for which estimates have not previously been published in this series are:

- (1) States, 1946-50.
- (2) Major geographic divisions and regions,  
1950.

Estimates of the total farm population of the United States presented in this report were published in the cooperative release of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Bureau of the Census entitled "Revised Estimates of the Farm Population of the United States, 1910 to 1950," Farm Population, Series Census-BAE, No. 16. The estimates of farm population for geographic subdivisions that follow are consistent with the estimates of the total farm population for the country as a whole in the report cited.

All similar estimates of farm population for geographic subdivisions previously published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics are superseded and should no longer be used.

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<sup>1/</sup> The farm population figures in this report include urban-farm residents as well as rural-farm residents.



### Changes in Farm Population for the United States, 1910-50

In 1910, the earliest date for which estimates of farm population are available, the farm population of the country numbered a little more than 32 million (table 1). During the next 6 years small annual increases occurred; in 1916, the peak year of the series, about 32.5 million persons were in the farm population.

Following a decline during World War I and a slight increase in the first 2 postwar years, farm population declined during the 1920's. By 1930, the population on farms numbered about 30.5 million. The depression of the early thirties reversed temporarily the previous pattern of net migration from farms to urban centers, and the farm population began to increase. By 1933 and 1934, it had practically regained the pre-World-War I level. But as economic conditions improved in the latter part of the 1930's heavy migration from farms was resumed. By 1940, the farm population was reduced to about the same size that it had been in 1930.

During World War II farm population dropped at an especially sharp rate. From 30.5 million at the time of the 1940 census, it was reduced to approximately 25.3 million by 1945. In the 2 years following V-J Day, farm population increased -- mainly because of the return of veterans. It reached its post-World-War II peak of some 27.1 million in April 1947. After that date, the long-term downward trend in the number of persons living on farms was resumed. In the decade of the 1940's, the net decrease of about 5.5 million, or 18 percent of 1940, brought the farm population to 25,058,000 in 1950.

Since 1910, the farm population has comprised an increasingly smaller proportion of the total population. In that year, the farm population made up more than a third of the total population. By the latter part of the 1920's the farm population had dropped to about a fourth of the total population of the country. It stayed at about this proportion through the 1930's. By 1950, because of the sharp acceleration of the downward trend in the farm population and the increase in the total population after 1940, the proportion had dropped to a sixth.

### Changes in Farm Population for Geographic Areas, 1920-50.

In general, the relative distribution of the farm population among the major geographic areas of the country changed little between 1920 and 1950 (table 3). In 1920, the South Atlantic division had about 20 percent of the 32 million farm population; the New England division had about 2 percent; and other divisions fell somewhere between these percentages. In 1950, when the total farm population was about 7 million smaller, most of the 9 divisions had about the same proportionate shares as in 1920 and only the share of the West South Central division had changed by as much as 3 percentage points. The share of the total farm population of the Pacific division increased by about half but it was still less than 5 percent at the end of the period.

Changes in farm population in the divisions have followed the same general pattern -- decreases or little change from 1920 to 1930, increases during the depression years in most divisions through 1933 and in some through 1934, relatively little change in most divisions through 1940, sharp decreases during World War II, increases following the end of the war up to April 1947, then decreases with some fluctuations from 1947 to 1950. The Pacific division -- the only one having an overall gain in farm population between 1920 and 1950 -- deviated most from this general pattern. During the last 30 years, farm population in the Pacific division increased by about 19 percent, the number of farms increased by 11 percent, and total population increased by 60 percent. At the opposite end of the scale, the number of farm residents in the West South Central division decreased by 36 percent, the number of farms decreased by 22 percent, and the average size of farms increased by 56 percent during the same 30 years.

From 1920 through 1950 farm population became a smaller proportion of total population in each State (table 5). In 1930 the proportion of the population living on farms was smaller than in 1920 in all States except Rhode Island. In 1940 the proportion of the population living on farms was smaller than in 1930 except in 21 States. In the 1940's no State had a larger proportion of its people on farms at the end than at the beginning of the decade and all States were much lower than in 1920 and 1930.



Table 1.- Annual estimates of the total population, including Armed Forces overseas, and of the farm population, United States, April 1, 1910-50

Year beginning April	: Total population :		Farm population	
	: including :		Number	Percentage
	: Armed Forces :		of	of total
	: overseas 1/ :		persons	population
	Thousands		Thousands	Percent
1950	151,132		25,058	16.6
1949	148,595		25,954	17.5
1948	146,051		25,903	17.7
1947	143,480		27,124	18.9
1946	141,039		26,483	18.8
1945	139,583		25,295	18.1
1944	138,027		25,495	18.5
1943	136,297		26,681	19.6
1942	134,498		29,234	21.7
1941	133,098		30,273	22.7
1940	131,820		30,547	23.2
1939	130,642		30,840	23.6
1938	129,589		30,980	23.9
1937	128,649		31,266	24.3
1936	127,886		31,737	24.8
1935	127,057		32,161	25.3
1934	126,192		32,305	25.6
1933	125,401		32,393	25.8
1932	124,658		31,388	25.2
1931	123,841		30,845	24.9
1930	122,775		30,529	24.9
1929	121,453		30,580	25.2
1928	120,135		30,548	25.4
1927	118,628		30,530	25.7
1926	117,007		30,979	26.5
1925	115,402		31,190	27.0
1924	113,573		31,177	27.5
1923	111,476		31,490	28.2
1922	109,676		32,109	29.3
1921	108,023		32,123	29.7
1920	106,089		31,974	30.1

Continued



Table 1.- Annual estimates of the total population, including Armed Forces overseas, and of the farm population, United States, April 1, 1910-50 - Continued

Year beginning April	Total population including Armed Forces overseas	Farm population	
	1/ Thousands	Number of persons Thousands	Percentage of total population Percent
1919	104,935	31,200	29.7
1918	104,266	31,950	30.6
1917	103,052	32,430	31.5
1916	101,612	32,530	32.0
1915	100,191	32,440	32.4
1914	98,845	32,320	32.8
1913	96,753	32,270	33.4
1912	94,965	32,210	33.9
1911	93,502	32,110	34.3
1910	91,885	32,077	34.9

1/ Estimates of the Armed Forces overseas were not available for 1910-16 and 1920-39. The total population figures for those years, therefore, relate only to persons residing in continental United States; numbers in the Armed Forces overseas during those years were probably fairly negligible.

Bureau of the Census and Bureau of Agricultural Economics.  
"Revised Estimates of the Farm Population of the United States, 1910-1950," Farm Population, Series Census-BAE, No. 16.

Table 2.- Annual estimates of the farm population, by States, major geographic divisions, regions, and United States; April 1, 1920-52

Area	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands
United States	31,974	32,123	32,109	31,490	31,177	31,190	30,979	30,530	30,548	30,580
Regions										
Northeast	2,557	2,559	2,532	2,478	2,447	2,435	2,413	2,355	2,335	2,315
North Central	10,153	10,125	9,994	9,857	9,793	9,805	9,721	9,605	9,579	9,536
South	17,063	17,215	17,328	16,950	16,753	16,762	16,648	16,339	16,380	16,452
West	2,216	2,224	2,255	2,205	2,184	2,188	2,197	2,231	2,254	2,277
Geographic Divisions										
New England	633	636	630	615	611	617	611	596	593	590
Middle Atlantic	1,904	1,923	1,902	1,863	1,836	1,816	1,802	1,759	1,742	1,725
East North Central	4,953	4,865	4,737	4,660	4,626	4,637	4,589	4,516	4,526	4,468
West North Central	5,205	5,260	5,257	5,197	5,167	5,168	5,132	5,089	5,053	5,068
South Atlantic	6,496	6,550	6,553	6,321	6,204	6,215	6,092	5,959	5,989	5,979
East South Central	5,257	5,313	5,301	5,209	5,162	5,163	5,131	5,053	5,066	5,101
West South Central	5,310	5,352	5,474	5,420	5,387	5,384	5,425	5,327	5,325	5,372
Mountain	1,179	1,163	1,166	1,135	1,120	1,119	1,111	1,120	1,123	1,141
Pacific	1,037	1,061	1,089	1,070	1,064	1,069	1,086	1,111	1,131	1,136
New England										
Maine	200	199	197	191	189	190	187	181	179	177
New Hampshire	77	77	75	73	72	72	70	67	67	65
Vermont	127	128	125	123	121	122	120	118	117	116
Massachusetts	120	122	123	121	121	125	126	124	125	126
Rhode Island	15	15	16	15	17	16	16	16	16	16
Connecticut	94	95	94	92	91	92	92	90	89	90
Middle Atlantic										
New York	806	814	805	787	775	768	766	741	734	727
New Jersey	145	146	145	142	140	138	138	135	134	133
Pennsylvania	953	963	952	934	921	912	904	883	874	865

Continued



Table 2.- Annual estimates of the farm population, by States, major geographic divisions, regions, and United States, April 1, 1920-50 - Continued

Area	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands
East North Central										
Ohio	1,149	1,124	1,094	1,072	1,064	1,060	1,046	1,030	1,027	1,013
Indiana	914	900	871	857	846	848	840	822	824	813
Illinois	1,107	1,085	1,057	1,040	1,032	1,033	1,024	1,007	1,010	995
Michigan	856	842	820	806	801	807	799	786	788	777
Wisconsin	927	914	895	885	883	889	880	871	877	870
West North Central										
Minnesota	903	915	921	909	904	908	903	896	889	897
Iowa	991	999	1,005	991	987	990	985	977	968	978
Missouri	1,219	1,226	1,216	1,194	1,178	1,172	1,160	1,142	1,125	1,119
North Dakota	398	400	400	400	398	397	396	393	394	396
South Dakota	364	373	373	373	377	380	379	382	384	385
Nebraska	588	595	595	592	589	588	585	581	581	583
Kansas	742	752	747	738	734	733	724	718	712	710
South Atlantic										
Delaware	52	52	53	52	49	49	48	48	48	48
Maryland	283	287	282	272	260	261	256	244	245	239
Virginia	1,078	1,087	1,081	1,038	1,018	1,020	993	966	971	969
West Virginia	484	484	485	475	465	466	457	447	455	454
North Carolina	1,520	1,558	1,579	1,550	1,545	1,566	1,559	1,549	1,581	1,596
South Carolina	1,088	1,087	1,081	1,031	1,005	1,001	975	947	940	933
Georgia	1,706	1,708	1,697	1,619	1,576	1,566	1,523	1,478	1,467	1,453
Florida	285	287	295	284	286	286	281	280	282	287
East South Central										
Kentucky	1,324	1,330	1,314	1,280	1,258	1,249	1,226	1,198	1,190	1,188
Tennessee	1,290	1,297	1,293	1,264	1,253	1,249	1,242	1,218	1,220	1,225
Alabama	1,355	1,372	1,373	1,353	1,341	1,343	1,339	1,323	1,325	1,336
Mississippi	1,288	1,314	1,321	1,312	1,310	1,322	1,324	1,314	1,331	1,352

Continued

Table 2.- Annual estimates of the farm population, by States, major geographic divisions, regions, and United States, April 1, 1920-50 - Continued

Area	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands
West South Central										
Arkansas	1,165	1,165	1,189	1,171	1,160	1,153	1,159	1,135	1,127	1,135
Louisiana	798	807	827	823	819	823	835	820	825	833
Oklahoma	1,033	1,043	1,063	1,052	1,046	1,045	1,046	1,028	1,026	1,033
Texas	2,314	2,337	2,395	2,374	2,362	2,363	2,385	2,344	2,347	2,371
Mountain										
Montana	228	223	222	214	210	209	206	206	205	207
Idaho	203	199	200	193	191	189	187	188	188	191
Wyoming	68	69	69	69	68	69	69	70	71	72
Colorado	268	268	271	266	265	267	268	272	275	282
New Mexico	163	160	161	156	154	154	154	155	156	158
Arizona	92	91	92	91	91	92	91	93	94	97
Utah	141	137	135	130	126	124	121	120	119	118
Nevada	16	16	16	16	15	15	15	16	15	16
Pacific										
Washington	289	295	300	294	290	291	294	299	303	302
Oregon	219	222	227	221	219	217	219	222	224	224
California	529	544	562	555	555	561	573	590	604	610

Continued



Table 2.- Annual estimates of the farm population, by States, major geographic divisions, regions, and United States; April 1, 1920-50 - Continued

Area	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands
United States	30,529	30,845	31,388	32,393	32,305	32,161	31,737	31,266	30,980	30,840
Regions										
Northeast	2,287	2,391	2,473	2,640	2,660	2,633	2,538	2,474	2,450	2,432
North Central	9,583	9,596	9,769	10,069	10,044	9,951	9,810	9,602	9,400	9,360
South	16,364	16,535	16,758	17,208	17,142	17,162	17,014	16,831	16,777	16,690
West	2,295	2,323	2,388	2,476	2,459	2,415	2,375	2,359	2,353	2,358
Geographic Divisions										
New England	575	612	647	698	719	718	682	656	648	631
Middle Atlantic	1,712	1,779	1,826	1,942	1,941	1,915	1,856	1,818	1,802	1,801
East North Central	4,501	4,555	4,647	4,868	4,852	4,808	4,771	4,702	4,650	4,642
West North Central	5,082	5,041	5,122	5,201	5,192	5,143	5,039	4,900	4,750	4,718
South Atlantic	5,914	6,014	6,083	6,275	6,266	6,283	6,286	6,239	6,224	6,175
East South Central	5,109	5,177	5,252	5,388	5,378	5,409	5,365	5,350	5,357	5,367
West South Central	5,341	5,344	5,423	5,545	5,498	5,470	5,363	5,242	5,196	5,148
Mountain	1,143	1,158	1,202	1,225	1,219	1,199	1,165	1,134	1,112	1,113
Pacific	1,152	1,165	1,186	1,251	1,240	1,216	1,210	1,225	1,241	1,245
New England										
Maine	171	178	183	193	193	187	181	177	178	175
New Hampshire	63	67	70	75	77	77	74	72	72	71
Vermont	113	117	121	127	127	123	117	113	111	108
Massachusetts	124	134	143	156	163	165	158	152	152	149
Rhode Island	17	17	19	21	22	22	20	19	18	18
Connecticut	87	99	111	126	137	144	132	123	117	110
Middle Atlantic										
New York	722	746	762	807	803	789	762	745	738	736
New Jersey	131	137	141	148	148	145	143	142	141	142
Pennsylvania	859	896	923	987	990	981	951	931	923	923

Continued



Table 2.- Annual estimates of the farm population, by States, major geographic divisions, regions, and United States; April 1, 1920-50 - Continued

Area	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands
<b>East North Central</b>										
Ohio	1,016	1,039	1,069	1,129	1,135	1,136	1,127	1,109	1,094	1,090
Indiana	815	824	837	876	868	860	850	836	824	821
Illinois	1,002	1,006	1,017	1,061	1,048	1,026	1,017	1,000	986	983
Michigan	785	793	813	852	854	847	850	850	852	862
Wisconsin	883	893	911	950	947	939	927	907	894	886
<b>West North Central</b>										
Minnesota	898	897	917	936	940	934	929	916	897	906
Iowa	981	967	978	993	986	974	964	941	922	920
Missouri	1,118	1,119	1,153	1,181	1,194	1,192	1,171	1,152	1,121	1,121
North Dakota	398	389	395	396	395	389	374	357	342	334
South Dakota	391	383	378	379	368	360	348	333	318	311
Nebraska	587	580	589	593	592	585	566	544	518	509
Kansas	709	706	712	723	717	709	687	657	632	617
<b>South Atlantic</b>										
Delaware	47	48	49	51	51	50	51	50	50	50
Maryland	238	240	243	245	244	245	245	243	249	247
Virginia	953	980	1,004	1,041	1,053	1,066	1,061	1,042	1,033	1,014
West Virginia	450	474	498	527	546	569	565	555	554	544
North Carolina	1,604	1,616	1,624	1,669	1,656	1,645	1,658	1,666	1,674	1,681
South Carolina	919	931	937	966	960	960	961	948	946	933
Georgia	1,423	1,431	1,430	1,462	1,442	1,424	1,425	1,417	1,407	1,397
Florida	280	294	298	314	314	324	320	318	311	309
<b>East South Central</b>										
Kentucky	1,180	1,211	1,245	1,288	1,302	1,326	1,309	1,300	1,291	1,288
Tennessee	1,219	1,243	1,266	1,309	1,312	1,326	1,309	1,300	1,302	1,299
Alabama	1,344	1,356	1,376	1,406	1,403	1,405	1,389	1,380	1,371	1,369
Mississippi	1,366	1,367	1,365	1,385	1,361	1,352	1,358	1,370	1,393	1,411

Continued



Table 2.- Annual estimates of the farm population, by States, major geographic divisions, regions,  
and United States; April 1, 1920-50 - Continued

Area	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands
West South Central										
Arkansas	1,122	1,133	1,160	1,193	1,193	1,198	1,175	1,148	1,143	1,133
Louisiana	833	839	852	876	869	872	863	855	853	860
Oklahoma	1,027	1,021	1,036	1,053	1,044	1,031	1,009	980	966	952
Texas	2,359	2,351	2,375	2,423	2,392	2,369	2,316	2,259	2,229	2,203
Mountain										
Montana	205	205	209	208	204	197	190	184	178	177
Idaho	189	192	201	205	205	201	199	196	196	198
Wyoming	74	74	77	78	77	76	74	73	72	73
Colorado	284	285	292	292	286	278	268	260	253	252
New Mexico	159	165	176	187	190	192	187	182	178	179
Arizona	99	100	102	104	103	101	102	103	106	109
Utah	116	121	129	135	138	139	130	121	114	109
Nevada	17	16	16	16	16	15	15	15	15	16
Pacific										
Washington	306	312	322	344	346	342	337	338	339	337
Oregon	224	231	238	254	254	253	251	253	256	256
California	622	622	626	653	640	621	622	634	646	652

Continued



Table 2.- Annual estimates of the farm population, by States, major geographic divisions, regions, and United States, April 1, 1920-50 - Continued

Area	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands
United States	30,547	30,273	29,234	26,681	25,495	25,295	26,483	27,124	25,903	25,954	25,058
Regions											
Northeast	2,411	2,423	2,376	2,201	2,136	2,150	2,233	2,275	2,170	2,175	2,097
North Central	9,349	9,323	9,069	8,332	8,002	7,942	8,280	8,510	8,180	8,254	8,005
South	16,400	16,125	15,431	13,958	13,226	13,053	13,714	14,023	13,333	13,292	12,793
West	2,387	2,402	2,358	2,190	2,131	2,150	2,256	2,316	2,220	2,233	2,163
Geographic Divisions											
New England	623	638	637	600	591	607	611	602	553	533	494
Middle Atlantic	1,788	1,785	1,739	1,601	1,545	1,543	1,622	1,673	1,617	1,642	1,603
East North Central	4,638	4,625	4,473	4,067	3,898	3,895	4,099	4,243	4,109	4,182	4,092
West North Central	4,711	4,698	4,596	4,265	4,104	4,047	4,181	4,267	4,071	4,072	3,913
South Atlantic	6,060	6,021	5,826	5,314	5,073	5,034	5,325	5,470	5,243	5,256	5,055
East South Central	5,283	5,208	4,991	4,537	4,314	4,275	4,513	4,639	4,425	4,434	4,315
West South Central	5,057	4,896	4,614	4,107	3,839	3,744	3,876	3,914	3,665	3,602	3,423
Mountain	1,118	1,129	1,111	1,032	1,003	1,012	1,043	1,052	989	975	927
Pacific	1,269	1,273	1,247	1,158	1,128	1,138	1,213	1,264	1,231	1,258	1,236
New England											
Maine	176	180	179	169	166	170	173	173	161	157	147
New Hampshire	71	73	73	69	68	70	71	71	66	64	60
Vermont	107	109	108	101	99	102	104	103	96	94	88
Massachusetts	147	152	154	147	146	151	148	141	126	117	105
Rhode Island	17	17	17	16	16	17	17	17	15	15	14
Connecticut	105	107	106	98	96	97	98	97	89	86	80
Middle Atlantic											
New York	730	730	712	657	635	636	668	689	665	675	659
New Jersey	143	142	139	127	122	119	127	133	131	135	134
Pennsylvania	915	913	888	817	788	788	827	851	821	832	810

Continued



Table 2.- Annual estimates of the farm population, by States, major geographic divisions, regions, and United States, April 1, 1920-50 - Continued

Area	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands
East North Central											
Ohio	1,089	1,084	1,047	950	909	901	953	991	964	986	969
Indiana	816	818	795	726	700	702	739	765	742	756	740
Illinois	979	973	938	851	813	812	849	873	839	848	824
Michigan	871	863	828	743	711	710	754	789	771	792	783
Wisconsin	883	887	865	792	765	770	804	825	793	800	776
West North Central											
Minnesota	915	911	890	825	792	781	811	833	799	803	776
Iowa	931	940	930	874	851	847	875	892	851	851	818
Missouri	1,125	1,110	1,074	985	938	914	953	982	945	954	925
North Dakota	328	328	323	300	290	288	294	296	278	275	260
South Dakota	307	307	302	282	273	272	280	285	272	271	260
Nebraska	498	498	483	454	437	431	443	450	427	425	406
Kansas	607	604	589	545	523	514	525	529	499	493	468
South Atlantic											
Delaware	46	46	46	42	41	40	42	43	41	41	39
Maryland	246	245	239	219	210	207	219	224	214	215	206
Virginia	986	990	967	891	852	856	895	910	863	856	814
West Virginia	533	533	519	477	459	459	486	499	478	478	460
North Carolina	1,659	1,653	1,604	1,467	1,404	1,399	1,496	1,553	1,504	1,524	1,481
South Carolina	917	903	865	782	739	728	776	803	775	782	757
Georgia	1,368	1,346	1,290	1,164	1,100	1,084	1,136	1,157	1,099	1,092	1,041
Florida	305	305	296	272	261	261	275	281	269	268	257
East South Central											
Kentucky	1,261	1,248	1,200	1,095	1,046	1,039	1,095	1,123	1,070	1,070	1,040
Tennessee	1,276	1,262	1,213	1,106	1,055	1,047	1,114	1,154	1,109	1,119	1,097
Alabama	1,343	1,319	1,259	1,140	1,079	1,068	1,117	1,138	1,075	1,068	1,029
Mississippi	1,403	1,379	1,319	1,196	1,134	1,121	1,187	1,224	1,171	1,177	1,149

Continued



Table 2.- Annual estimates of the farm population, by States, major geographic divisions, regions, and United States; April 1, 1920-50 - Continued

Area	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands
West South Central											
Arkansas	1,113	1,080	1,022	912	854	836	883	910	871	873	846
Louisiana	854	827	781	696	650	635	662	674	636	630	603
Oklahoma	930	899	846	753	702	683	699	697	645	626	587
Texas	2,160	2,090	1,965	1,746	1,633	1,590	1,632	1,633	1,513	1,473	1,387
Mountain											
Montana	176	174	168	152	145	150	155	158	149	148	142
Idaho	203	204	200	185	179	180	188	193	184	184	177
Wyoming	73	74	73	67	65	59	63	64	62	62	60
Colorado	253	251	243	222	212	214	224	229	218	219	211
New Mexico	178	179	175	162	157	166	169	168	156	151	142
Arizona	114	121	124	121	122	113	112	109	98	92	84
Utah	105	110	112	108	108	114	116	115	107	104	97
Nevada	16	16	16	15	15	16	16	16	15	15	14
Pacific											
Washington	340	342	335	312	304	314	329	336	321	322	310
Oregon	259	260	256	238	233	240	255	266	258	263	258
California	670	671	656	608	591	584	629	662	652	673	668



Table 3.- Percentage distribution of the farm population, by States,  
major geographic divisions, regions, and United States,  
April 1, 1920-50

Area	: 1920	: 1925	: 1930	: 1935	: 1940	: 1945	: 1950
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
United States	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Regions							
Northeast	8.0	7.8	7.5	8.2	7.9	8.5	8.4
North Central	31.8	31.5	31.4	31.0	30.6	31.4	31.9
South	53.3	53.7	53.6	53.3	53.7	51.6	51.1
West	6.9	7.0	7.5	7.5	7.8	8.5	8.6
Geographic divisions							
New England	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.2	2.0	2.4	2.0
Middle Atlantic	6.0	5.8	5.6	6.0	5.9	6.1	6.4
East North Central	15.5	14.9	14.7	15.0	15.2	15.4	16.3
West North Central	16.3	16.6	16.7	16.0	15.4	16.0	15.6
South Atlantic	20.3	19.9	19.4	19.5	19.8	19.9	20.2
East South Central	16.4	16.5	16.7	16.8	17.3	16.9	17.2
West South Central	16.6	17.3	17.5	17.0	16.6	14.8	13.7
Mountain	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	4.0	3.7
Pacific	3.2	3.4	3.8	3.8	4.1	4.5	4.9
New England							
Maine	.6	.6	.5	.6	.6	.6	.6
New Hampshire	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	.3	.2
Vermont	.4	.4	.4	.4	.3	.4	.4
Massachusetts	.4	.4	.4	.5	.5	.6	.4
Rhode Island	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1
Connecticut	.3	.3	.3	.4	.3	.4	.3
Middle Atlantic							
New York	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.6
New Jersey	.5	.4	.4	.4	.5	.5	.6
Pennsylvania	3.0	2.9	2.8	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.2
East North Central							
Ohio	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.9
Indiana	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.9
Illinois	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3
Michigan	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.8	3.1
Wisconsin	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.1
West North Central							
Minnesota	2.8	2.9	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.1
Iowa	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.4	3.3
Missouri	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.7
North Dakota	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0
South Dakota	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0
Nebraska	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.6
Kansas	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.0	1.9

Continued

Table 3.- Percentage distribution of the farm population, by States,  
major geographic divisions, regions, and United States,  
April 1, 1920-50 - Continued

Area	1920	1925	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
South Atlantic							
Delaware	.1	.2	.1	.1	.2	.2	.2
Maryland	.9	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8
Virginia	3.4	3.3	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.3
West Virginia	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.8
North Carolina	4.8	5.0	5.3	5.1	5.4	5.5	5.9
South Carolina	3.4	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.0
Georgia	5.3	5.0	4.7	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.2
Florida	.9	.9	.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
East South Central							
Kentucky	4.1	4.0	3.8	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Tennessee	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.4
Alabama	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.1
Mississippi	4.0	4.2	4.5	4.2	4.6	4.4	4.6
West South Central							
Arkansas	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.3	3.4
Louisiana	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.5	2.4
Oklahoma	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.1	2.7	2.4
Texas	7.2	7.6	7.7	7.4	7.1	6.3	5.5
Mountain							
Montana	.7	.7	.7	.6	.6	.6	.6
Idaho	.6	.6	.6	.6	.7	.7	.7
Wyoming	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2
Colorado	.9	.8	.9	.9	.8	.8	.8
New Mexico	.5	.5	.5	.6	.6	.6	.6
Arizona	.3	.3	.3	.3	.4	.5	.3
Utah	.4	.4	.4	.4	.3	.5	.4
Nevada	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1
Pacific							
Washington	.9	.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2
Oregon	.7	.7	.7	.8	.8	1.0	1.0
California	1.6	1.8	2.1	1.9	2.2	2.3	2.7



Table 4.- Change in farm population, by States, major geographic divisions, regions, and United States, for selected periods, 1920-50

Area	Change 1920-50		Change 1920-30		Change 1930-40		Change 1940-50	
	Thou- sands	Per- cent	Thou- sands	Per- cent	Thou- sands	Per- cent	Thou- sands	Per- cent
United States	-6,916	-21.6	-1,445	-4.5	18	.1	-5,489	-18.0
Regions								
Northeast	-440	-17.3	-250	-9.9	124	5.4	-314	-13.0
North Central	-2,153	-21.2	-575	-5.7	-234	-2.4	-1,344	-14.4
South	-4,270	-25.0	-699	-4.1	36	.2	-3,607	-22.0
West	-53	-2.4	79	3.6	92	4.0	-224	-9.4
Geographic divisions								
New England	-139	-22.0	-58	-9.2	48	8.4	-129	-20.7
Middle Atlantic	-301	-15.8	-192	-10.1	76	4.4	-185	-10.4
East North Central	-861	-17.4	-452	-9.1	137	3.0	-546	-11.8
West North Central	-1,292	-24.8	-123	-2.4	-371	-7.3	-798	-16.9
South Atlantic	-1,441	-22.2	-582	-9.0	146	2.5	-1,005	-16.6
East South Central	-942	-17.9	-148	-2.8	174	3.4	-968	-18.3
West South Central	-1,887	-35.5	31	.6	-284	-5.3	-1,634	-32.3
Mountain	-252	-21.4	-36	-3.1	-25	-2.2	-191	-17.1
Pacific	199	19.2	115	11.1	117	10.2	-33	-2.6
New England								
Maine	-53	-26.5	-29	-14.5	5	2.9	-29	-16.5
New Hampshire	-17	-22.1	-14	-18.2	8	12.7	-11	-15.5
Vermont	-39	-30.7	-14	-11.0	-6	-5.3	-19	-17.8
Massachusetts	-15	-12.5	4	3.3	23	18.6	-42	-28.6
Rhode Island	-1	-6.7	2	13.3	0	-	-3	-17.6
Connecticut	-14	-14.9	-7	-7.4	18	20.7	-25	-23.8
Middle Atlantic								
New York	-147	-18.2	-84	-10.4	8	1.1	-71	-9.7
New Jersey	-11	-7.6	-14	-9.7	12	9.2	-9	-6.3
Pennsylvania	-143	-15.0	-94	-9.9	56	6.5	-105	-11.5
East North Central								
Ohio	-180	-15.7	-133	-11.6	73	7.2	-120	-11.0
Indiana	-174	-19.0	-99	-10.8	1	.1	-76	-9.3
Illinois	-283	-25.6	-105	-9.5	-23	-2.3	-155	-15.8
Michigan	-73	-8.5	-71	-8.3	86	11.0	-88	-10.1
Wisconsin	-151	-16.3	-44	-4.8	0	-	-107	-12.1

Continued



Table 4.- Change in farm population, by States, major geographic divisions, regions, and United States, for selected periods, 1920-50 -Continued

Area	Change 1920-50		Change 1920-30		Change 1930-40		Change 1940-50	
	Thou- sands	Per- cent	Thou- sands	Per- cent	Thou- sands	Per- cent	Thou- sands	Per- cent
West North Central								
Minnesota	-127	-14.1	-5	-.6	17	1.9	-139	-15.2
Iowa	-173	-17.5	-10	-1.0	-50	-5.1	-113	-12.1
Missouri	-294	-24.1	-101	-8.3	7	.6	-200	-17.8
North Dakota	-138	-34.7	0	-	-70	-17.6	-68	-20.7
South Dakota	-104	-28.6	27	7.4	-84	-21.5	-47	-15.3
Nebraska	-182	-31.0	-1	-.2	-89	-15.2	-92	-18.5
Kansas	-274	-36.9	-33	-4.4	-102	-14.4	-139	-22.9
South Atlantic								
Delaware	-13	-25.0	-5	-9.6	-1	-2.1	-7	-15.2
Maryland	-77	-27.2	-45	-15.9	8	3.4	-40	-16.3
Virginia	-264	-24.5	-125	-11.6	33	3.5	-172	-17.4
West Virginia	-24	-5.0	-34	-7.0	83	18.4	-73	-13.7
North Carolina	-37	-2.6	84	5.5	55	3.4	-178	-10.7
South Carolina	-331	-30.4	-169	-15.5	-2	-.2	-160	-17.4
Georgia	-665	-39.0	-283	-16.6	-55	-3.9	-327	-23.9
Florida	-28	-9.8	-5	-1.8	25	8.9	-48	-15.7
East South Central								
Kentucky	-284	-21.4	-144	-10.9	81	6.9	-221	-17.5
Tennessee	-193	-15.0	-71	-5.5	57	4.7	-179	-14.0
Alabama	-326	-24.1	-11	-.8	-1	-.1	-314	-23.4
Mississippi	-139	-10.8	78	6.1	37	2.7	-254	-18.1
West South Central								
Arkansas	-319	-27.4	-43	-3.7	-9	-.8	-267	-24.0
Louisiana	-195	-24.4	35	4.4	21	2.5	-251	-29.4
Oklahoma	-446	-43.2	-6	-.6	-97	-9.4	-343	-36.9
Texas	-927	-40.1	45	1.9	-199	-8.4	-773	-35.8
Mountain								
Montana	-86	-37.7	-23	-10.1	-29	-14.2	-34	-19.3
Idaho	-26	-12.8	-14	-6.9	14	7.4	-26	-12.8
Wyoming	-8	-11.8	6	8.8	-1	1/	-13	-17.8
Colorado	-57	-21.3	16	6.0	-31	-10.9	-42	-16.6
New Mexico	-21	-12.9	-4	-2.5	19	12.0	-36	-20.2
Arizona	-8	-8.7	7	7.6	15	15.2	-32	-26.3
Utah	-44	-31.2	-25	-17.7	-11	-9.5	-8	-7.6
Nevada	-2	-12.5	1	6.2	-1	-5.9	-2	-12.5
Pacific								
Washington	21	7.3	17	5.9	34	11.1	-30	-8.8
Oregon	39	17.8	5	2.3	35	15.6	-1	-.4
California	139	26.3	93	17.6	48	7.7	-2	-.3

1/ Less than 0.5 percent.



Table 5.- Total population and farm population estimates, by States, major geographic divisions, regions, and United States, April 1, 1920, 1930, 1940, and 1950 1/

Area	1920				1930				1940				1950			
	Total population		Farm population		Total population		Farm population		Total population		Farm population		Total population		Farm population	
	Number	Percentage of total population	Number	Percentage of total population	Number	Percentage of total population	Number	Percentage of total population	Number	Percentage of total population	Number	Percentage of total population	Number	Percentage of total population	Number	Percentage of total population
	Thou. sands	Per cent	Thou. sands	Per cent	Thou. sands	Per cent	Thou. sands	Per cent	Thou. sands	Per cent	Thou. sands	Per cent	Thou. sands	Per cent	Thou. sands	Per cent
United States 3/	106,089	30.1	31,974	30.1	122,775	24.9	131,669	23.2	30,547	23.2	150,697	23.2	25,058	16.6		
Regions																
Northeast	29,669	8.6	2,537	8.6	2,287	6.6	35,977	6.7	2,411	6.7	39,478	6.7	2,097	5.3		
North Central	34,197	29.7	10,158	29.7	9,583	24.8	40,143	23.3	9,349	23.3	44,460	23.3	8,005	18.0		
South 3/	33,242	51.3	17,063	51.3	16,364	43.2	41,666	39.4	16,400	39.4	47,197	39.4	12,793	27.1		
West	8,981	24.7	2,216	24.7	2,295	19.3	13,883	17.2	2,387	17.2	19,562	17.2	2,163	11.1		
Geographic divisions																
New England	7,423	8.5	633	8.5	575	7.0	8,437	7.4	623	7.4	9,314	7.4	494	5.3		
Middle Atlantic	22,241	8.6	1,904	8.6	1,712	6.5	27,540	6.5	1,788	6.5	30,164	6.5	1,603	5.3		
E. No. Central	21,644	22.9	4,953	22.9	4,501	17.8	26,626	17.4	4,638	17.4	30,399	17.4	4,092	13.5		
W. No. Central	12,553	41.5	5,205	41.5	5,082	38.2	13,517	34.8	4,711	34.8	14,061	34.8	3,913	27.8		
So. Atlantic 3/	14,046	46.2	6,496	46.2	5,914	37.4	17,823	34.0	6,060	34.0	21,182	34.0	5,055	23.9		
E. So. Central	8,901	59.1	5,257	59.1	5,109	51.7	10,778	49.0	5,283	49.0	11,477	49.0	4,315	37.6		
W. So. Central	10,295	51.6	5,310	51.6	5,341	43.9	13,065	38.7	5,507	38.7	14,538	38.7	3,423	23.6		
Mountain	3,340	35.3	1,179	35.3	1,143	30.9	4,150	26.9	1,118	26.9	5,075	26.9	927	18.3		
Pacific	5,641	18.4	1,037	18.4	1,152	14.1	9,733	13.0	1,269	13.0	14,487	13.0	1,236	8.5		
New England																
Maine	770	26.0	200	26.0	171	21.5	847	20.8	176	20.8	914	20.8	147	16.1		
New Hampshire	443	17.4	77	17.4	63	13.6	492	14.4	71	14.4	533	14.4	60	11.3		
Vermont	353	36.0	127	36.0	113	31.4	359	29.8	107	29.8	378	29.8	88	23.3		
Massachusetts	3,867	3.1	120	3.1	124	2.9	4,317	3.4	147	3.4	4,690	3.4	105	2.2		
Rhode Island	609	2.5	15	2.5	17	2.5	713	2.4	17	2.4	792	2.4	14	1.8		
Connecticut	1,386	6.8	94	6.8	87	5.4	1,709	6.1	105	6.1	2,007	6.1	80	4.0		
Middle Atlantic																
New York	10,334	7.8	806	7.8	722	5.7	13,479	5.4	730	5.4	14,830	5.4	659	4.4		
New Jersey	3,177	4.6	145	4.6	131	3.2	4,160	3.4	143	3.4	4,836	3.4	134	2.8		
Pennsylvania	8,730	10.9	953	10.9	852	8.9	9,901	9.2	915	9.2	10,498	9.2	810	7.7		

Continued.



Table 5.- Total population and farm population estimates, by States, major geographic divisions, regions, and United States, April 1, 1920, 1930, 1940, and 1950 1/ - Continued

Area	1920				1930				1940				1950			
	Farm population		Total		Farm population		Total		Farm population		Total		Farm population		Total	
	Thou- sands	Per- cent	Thou- sands	Per- cent	Thou- sands	Per- cent	Thou- sands	Per- cent	Thou- sands	Per- cent	Thou- sands	Per- cent	Thou- sands	Per- cent	Thou- sands	Per- cent
East North Central	5,779	19.9	6,647	15.3	1,016	15.3	6,907	15.8	1,089	15.8	7,947	12.2	969	12.2	7,947	12.2
Ohio	2,939	31.1	3,239	25.2	815	25.2	3,428	23.8	816	23.8	3,934	18.8	740	18.8	3,934	18.8
Indiana	6,574	16.8	7,630	13.1	1,002	13.1	7,897	12.4	979	12.4	8,712	9.5	824	9.5	8,712	9.5
Illinois	3,696	23.2	4,842	16.2	785	16.2	5,256	16.6	871	16.6	6,372	12.3	783	12.3	6,372	12.3
Michigan	2,656	34.9	2,939	30.0	883	30.0	3,138	28.1	883	28.1	3,434	22.6	776	22.6	3,434	22.6
Wisconsin																
West North Central	2,395	37.7	2,564	35.0	898	35.0	2,792	32.8	915	32.8	2,982	26.0	776	26.0	2,982	26.0
Minnesota	2,402	41.3	2,471	39.7	981	39.7	2,538	36.7	931	36.7	2,621	31.2	818	31.2	2,621	31.2
Iowa	3,404	35.8	3,629	30.8	1,138	30.8	3,785	29.7	1,125	29.7	3,955	23.1	925	23.1	3,955	23.1
Missouri	647	61.5	681	58.4	398	58.4	642	51.1	328	51.1	620	41.9	260	41.9	620	41.9
North Dakota	638	57.0	693	56.4	391	56.4	643	47.7	307	47.7	653	39.8	260	39.8	653	39.8
South Dakota	1,298	45.3	1,378	42.6	587	42.6	1,316	37.8	498	37.8	1,325	30.6	406	30.6	1,325	30.6
Nebraska	1,769	41.9	1,881	37.7	709	37.7	1,801	33.7	607	33.7	1,905	24.6	468	24.6	1,905	24.6
Kansas																
South Atlantic 3/	221	23.5	238	19.8	47	19.8	266	17.3	46	17.3	318	12.3	39	12.3	318	12.3
Delaware	1,457	19.4	1,632	14.6	238	14.6	1,821	13.5	246	13.5	2,343	8.8	206	8.8	2,343	8.8
Maryland	2,328	46.3	2,422	39.4	953	39.4	2,678	36.8	986	36.8	3,319	24.5	814	24.5	3,319	24.5
Virginia	1,467	33.0	1,729	26.0	450	26.0	1,902	28.0	533	28.0	2,005	22.9	460	22.9	2,005	22.9
West Virginia	2,573	59.1	3,170	50.6	1,604	50.6	3,572	46.4	1,659	46.4	4,062	36.5	1,481	36.5	4,062	36.5
North Carolina	1,685	64.6	1,739	52.8	919	52.8	1,900	48.3	917	48.3	2,117	35.8	757	35.8	2,117	35.8
South Carolina	2,911	58.6	2,909	48.9	1,423	48.9	3,124	43.8	1,368	43.8	3,445	30.2	1,041	30.2	3,445	30.2
Georgia	965	29.5	1,468	19.1	280	19.1	1,897	16.1	305	16.1	2,771	9.3	257	9.3	2,771	9.3
Florida																
East South Central	2,419	54.7	2,615	45.1	1,180	45.1	2,845	44.3	1,261	44.3	2,945	35.3	1,040	35.3	2,945	35.3
Kentucky	2,334	55.3	2,616	46.6	1,219	46.6	2,916	43.8	1,276	43.8	3,291	33.3	1,097	33.3	3,291	33.3
Tennessee	2,353	57.6	2,646	50.8	1,344	50.8	2,833	47.4	1,343	47.4	3,062	33.6	1,029	33.6	3,062	33.6
Alabama	1,795	71.8	2,010	68.0	1,366	68.0	2,184	64.2	1,403	64.2	2,179	52.7	1,149	52.7	2,179	52.7
Mississippi																

Continued







Note on Method of Developing Revisions and New Estimates

Since publication of annual estimates of the farm population by geographic subdivisions was begun by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, these estimates have been based on data from an annual mailed questionnaire survey conducted by The Bureau and on benchmark data from the Censuses of Population and Agriculture conducted by the Bureau of the Census. Since 1944, they have been adjusted to the total farm population estimates for the United States of the Census-BAE series based on the Current Population Surveys of the Census Bureau. Through the mailed questionnaire survey, farmers report on the number of persons who were living on their own and neighboring farms at the beginning of specified 12-month periods and on the changes through births, deaths, and migration which occurred during each period. From these data, ratios of each component of change during the specified period to farm population at the start of the period are computed for each State. By applying these ratios to previously obtained estimates of the total farm population in each State at the beginning of the period (or, when the period starts on a census date, to census data on the size of the farm population), each component of change -- births, deaths, in-migrants, and out-migrants -- during the period and the farm population at the end of the period are estimated. Although the basic procedure involves preparation of estimates for each State, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics has published postcensal estimates only for regions and geographic divisions because of the limitations of the basic estimating procedure. When new benchmark data from a Census of Population or Agriculture become available, the postcensal estimates are revised, utilizing data from the new census as well as data from the mailed questionnaire survey and previous censuses. Intercensal estimates for States, divisions, and regions are then issued.

Revisions and New Estimates for Geographic Subdivisions

As mentioned above, revision of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimates of farm population for major geographic divisions and issuance of estimates for States after a new census has been customary. It has also been customary to revise estimates for geographic subdivisions when revisions in United States totals have been made so that the entire series will be on a comparable basis. Following issuance of the revised United States series of farm population estimates and issuance of data from the 1950 Census of Population, the estimates in this report were prepared to revise and complete the series of estimates for geographic subdivisions for 1920-50 on a basis comparable with the revised United States estimates. In addition to making the series comparable, the adjustment of estimates for geographic subdivisions for 1940-50 to the revised annual estimates of the total farm population has increased the reliability of the estimates for the smaller areas for those dates.

A detailed statement of the reasons for and methods of revising the estimates of the total farm population of the country is contained in the release Series Census-BAE, No. 16. For 1920-39 (except for 1930) 2/

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2/ Data on farm population for all geographic areas for 1930 were obtained by adjusting the 1930 Census data by States to the Census-BAE estimate of the total farm population of the United States for 1930.



the only adjustment required in the estimates for geographic subdivisions was that due to the change in date of the series from January 1 to April 1, as the other major elements in the revision appeared to offset each other.

From the quarterly Census-BAE estimates since 1944, 360,000 was estimated as the average seasonal increase in the total farm population of the country from January to April. As these are the only enumerative survey data available on seasonal changes in the farm population and as there is no information on how the seasonal pattern may have altered in the last few decades, this adjustment was applied to the 1941-43 figures and was carried back from 1939 to 1920 without change. The 1910 estimate of the farm population was reexamined during the 1940's in the light of some special retabulations made of the 1910 data on fertility. At present it appears that the original estimate labeled as a January estimate can now be relabeled more correctly as an April estimate and therefore need not be revised in shifting from the January to the April basis. Because information on seasonality during the 1910-20 period is almost entirely lacking, it was arbitrarily decided not to carry the seasonal adjustment back before World War I (1917). Consequently, the adjustment for seasonality was graduated from 360,000 in 1920 to zero in 1916.

The average seasonal increase of 360,000 from January to April for the country as a whole was distributed among the major geographic divisions according to the geographic distribution of the January-to-April increase of hired farm employment, a closely related series.

In revising the estimates for 1941-49 for the major geographic divisions and the State estimates for 1941-45 and for preparation of new estimates for States for 1946-50, the 1940 Census of Population figures, 1945 Census of Agriculture figures (adjusted for Indians, who were not enumerated and adjusted to revised Census-BAE level), and Census-BAE area estimates (see following paragraph) for 1950 were utilized as benchmark data.

The 1950 Census of Population data on number of persons living on farms for each State and major geographic division, adjusted to the Census-BAE level of farm population, served as a principal benchmark in revising the series of annual estimates for geographic areas. The estimate for April 1950 from the Current Population Survey (25,058,000) <sup>3/</sup> was about 1,726,000 higher than the final 1950 Population Census count, although the same definition was specified for both enumerations. Examination of the returns for identical households in the two enumerations revealed that the largest part of the discrepancy (approximately 1½ million) was due to differences in classification. <sup>4/</sup> Although there is no conclusive evidence as to the relative validity of the CPS as compared with the census classification of particular households as farm or nonfarm, investigations

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<sup>3/</sup> This figure represents a revision of the original CPS estimate (24.3 million) and reflects the use of 1950 Population Census materials in the course of weighting up the sample results to national totals.

<sup>4/</sup> This study involved matching April 1950 CPS schedules and 1950 Population Census schedules for identical households and comparing the returns in these two independent enumerations.



in other subject-matter fields have demonstrated that the more experienced and better-trained CPS enumerators generally treated marginal cases in a more correct fashion. Partly for this reason, it was decided to use the CPS rather than the Census level to represent 1950 in the revised Census-BAE series. This decision preserves continuity in the series as the annual postcensal estimates for the present decade will be derived from the Current Population Survey.

The difference between Census-BAE and census total farm population figures for 1950 - 1,726,000 - was distributed among the States and divisions on the basis of the proportion of the rural-farm population of each area employed in nonagricultural work.

For 1941-49, in addition to the adjustment for seasonality, the difference in types of enumeration, and the new benchmark data, another factor was important in the adjustment of the revised series. This factor involved adjustment of the previous data to take account of the new definition of the farm population adopted for the censuses and for current surveys of the Bureau of The Census and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The new definition specifically excludes from the farm population certain groups which formerly may have been included in whole or in part. The main group consists of persons who live in houses located on farms but who pay cash rent for the house and yard only, without farmland. Most families have no connection with and receive no income from agriculture. It was considered helpful to Federal agencies that deal with population statistics to remove these households from the farm population classification.

After experimenting with the distribution of each of the four types of adjustments of the old series of estimates among the geographic subdivisions for 1941-49, the following method was devised to handle all needs for revision at one time. This method involved two major estimating procedures -- one of which resulted in estimates for major geographic divisions and the other in estimates for the States.

For major geographic divisions, estimates were developed as follows:

1. The difference between the United States and each division with respect to the rate of change for each calendar year was computed from data published in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics report, Farm Population Estimates, 1949. No marked trends in these annual differences could be observed, therefore it was assumed that the annual rates of change for a given division should be smoothed in inverse relation to the deviation of the difference for each year from the average of the differences for the division, and in direct relation to the number of farms reported on for the specific division for the given year. 5/ Accordingly, preliminary weights were computed by dividing

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5/ Computation procedures in this work were as follows:

1. Ratios of total change in farm population from published January figures for divisions only and U. S. for January 1940-January 1941 to April 1950-April 1951 were computed.
2. Difference between United States and division ratios were computed.
3. The yearly results obtained in step 2 were averaged for each division.
4. The difference between the division figure for each year and the mean for the division was computed.
5. The results obtained in step 4 were squared.
6. The number of farms reported on for a specific division for each year was divided by the sum of the squares computed in step 5.



the number of farms reported on by the sum of the squares of the deviations from the average of the differences between the United States and the divisions. The preliminary weights obtained were multiplied by an arbitrary constant selected to give a weight of one for the West North Central division (which appeared to have had the best estimates on the unrevised series) for most 12-month periods and still give maximum smoothing to the New England division (which needed adjustment most). When the product of the constant and the preliminary weight was greater than one, a weight of one was used. The smoothed differences between the United States rate of change and the division rate of change were assumed to be equal to the original differences multiplied by the weights.

2. Smoothed rates were adjusted from a January-to-January to an April-to-April basis by interpolation.
3. These April-to-April rates of change for 1940-45 for each division were multiplied by a constant which forced the rates of change to yield the fixed 1945 farm population estimates for divisions when applied to the fixed 1940 division figures. This procedure was also followed for the 1945-50 rates of change.
4. The intercensal estimates obtained in step 3 were adjusted proportionately to yield the fixed totals for the United States. The maximum adjustment at this point was about a million for 1942.

For all States, except those of the West South Central division for 1941-49, estimates were obtained as follows:

1. For years 1920-39, except for 1930, <sup>6/</sup> the percentage that the farm population of each State comprised of the total for the division on the unrevised series was applied to the revised total for the division to obtain revised State estimates.
2. For 1940, 1945, and 1950, the procedures described on pages 24 and 25 for deriving the estimates for the major geographic divisions were used in obtaining the State estimates for 1940, 1945, and 1950.
3. For 1941-44 and 1946-49, the percentage that the farm population of each State comprised of the total for the division in 1940, 1945, and 1950 was computed. The percentages for 1941-44 and 1946-49 were obtained by interpolation. These interpolated percentages were applied to the revised annual estimates for the division obtained as described above.

For the West South Central division for 1941-44 and 1946-49, Texas and the rest of the division were estimated by the procedure described above for divisions. The procedure used for States was then applied in estimating the distribution of the farm population among the other States of the division.

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<sup>6/</sup> See footnote 2, page 22.

### Limitations of the Estimates

Data for geographic areas are based on sample data tied to benchmark data from censuses and adjusted to total estimates of farm population obtained from samples. The reliability of an estimate is therefore related to the size of the sample, the closeness of the benchmark date, and the size of the resulting estimates. Estimates for States and divisions resulting from the sample data, particularly those for which the sample was relatively small, should be used with caution. Also figures for States that contain relatively large populations with marginal farm connections may be subject to greater error than those for other States, even for census dates. This factor is especially important in analyzing changes in farm population from one date to another.



Number of farms reported on in annual mailed questionnaire survey of changes  
in number of persons residing on farms, 1940 to 1950 <sup>1/</sup>

Area	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950-51
United States	138,004	132,120	74,832	64,951	59,771	52,745	54,970	58,326	68,511	72,666	63,831
Geographic divisions											
New England	892	870	687	1,047	473	432	453	393	393	400	390
Middle Atlantic	7,476	14,607	12,579	8,923	6,564	6,343	7,923	4,432	6,967	6,484	5,728
East North Central	24,671	24,843	13,995	11,278	11,721	9,167	9,307	11,109	9,907	10,560	9,780
West North Central	45,413	37,686	18,648	15,942	15,584	13,765	13,139	13,921	18,843	17,851	18,212
South Atlantic	8,224	9,214	6,542	7,287	7,897	6,650	6,274	7,062	8,459	6,828	7,120
East South Central	13,634	18,433	5,430	5,654	4,364	3,773	3,326	4,574	6,807	11,040	9,108
West South Central	20,731	17,723	6,536	5,908	5,012	6,053	9,199	11,645	10,667	12,574	8,081
Mountain	11,688	4,959	4,254	3,936	2,922	2,512	3,120	3,069	3,801	4,081	3,754
Pacific	5,275	3,785	6,161	4,976	5,234	4,050	2,229	2,121	2,667	2,848	1,658

<sup>1/</sup> For 1940 through 1949, farmers reported in January on changes during preceding calendar year. In April 1951, farmers reported on changes during the 12 months preceding April 1, 1951.





### Related Reports

Among the principal releases of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics issued since 1939 which contain farm population estimates for geographic areas are:

Farm Population Estimates, United States, and Major Geographic Divisions, 1910-42, November 1942.

Farm Population Estimates, United States, and Major Geographic Divisions, 1910-1946, June 1946.

Farm Population Estimates, United States, and Major Geographic Divisions, 1940-1947, States 1940-1945, August 1947.

Farm Population Estimates, (specified date) containing current estimates issued from time to time.

Estimates in these releases are of historical interest only; they are superseded by the estimates in this report.

Other related reports are the cooperative releases of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Bureau of the Census in Farm Population, Series Census-BAE, which contain current estimates of the distribution of the total farm population of the country by age, sex, labor-force status, and other related material.

Farms and Farm People, a special cooperative report of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Bureau of the Census, contains data on the characteristics of the population in farm-operator households, by economic class of farm (based on 1950 Censuses of Population and Agriculture), as well as a discussion of the definitions of farm population and farm-operator household population. The various Census of Population publications of the Bureau of the Census contain detailed data on the characteristics and geographic distribution of the rural-farm population. In addition, certain of the Current Population Reports, particularly those in Series P-20, P-50, and P-60, published by the Bureau of the Census, contain current estimates relative to the characteristics of the rural-farm population of the country.

U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington 25, D. C.

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